## **Claims**

1. A patient information system comprising:

a computer server having a patient information forum for at least one patient, and each said patient information forum containing information regarding an individual patient;

a publicly accessible computer output device networked to said computer server;

a publicly accessible computer input device networked to said computer server; and

a security subsystem operably positioned between said patient information forum and said input device.

2. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said patient information forum is subdivided into a plurality of levels, and a different portion of said patient information forum being available at different ones of said plurality of levels; and

said security subsystem being operable to limit access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons, and limit access to different ones of said levels to subsets of said predetermined group of persons.

3. The patient information system of claim 2 wherein said predetermined group of persons includes third party individuals identified by a particular patient to which said patient information forum relates, and said third party individuals include relatives of said particular patient.

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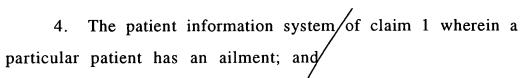
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said patient information forum for said particular patient includes a link to a database having information regarding said ailment.

5. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said patient information forum includes a location for dialogue.

6. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said computer server is an Internet server; and said patient information system has an Internet address.

7. The patient information system of claim 1 wherein said security subsystem includes an assignment of passwords to a predetermined group of persons that are approved for access to said patient information forum of a particular patient.

8. A method of exchanging information regarding a patient comprising the steps of:

establishing a patient information forum for a particular patient on a computer server;

networking said computer server into a publicly accessible computer network; and

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limiting access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said establishing step includes a step of dividing said patient information forum into a plurality of levels; and

said limiting access step includes a step of limiting subsets of said predetermined group of persons to different ones of said levels.

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10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of: identifying said predetermined group of persons; and assigning a password to each person in said predetermined group of persons.

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11. The method of claim 8 wherein said establishing step includes a step of providing a location for dialogue in said patient information forum.

The method of claim 8 wherein said particular patient

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has an ailment; and

said establishing step includes a step of providing a link in said patient information forum to a database having information regarding said ailment.

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13. The method of claim & wherein said networking step includes a step of providing a patient information system with a Internet address: and

networking said computer server to at least one Internet server.

14. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of: networking a special needs computer to said computer server; and

providing/said special needs computer with at least one of a visually impaired computer interface, a touchscreen computer interface and a voice recognition computer interface.

The method of claim 8 further comprising a step of providing said patient information forum with a bulletin board location having new information added to said patient information forum.

A software program comprising:

means for establishing a patient information forum on a publicly accessible computer network;

means for limiting access to said patient information forum to a predetermined group of persons; and

means for posting information regarding a particular patient on said patient information forum.



17. The software program of claim 16 wherein said means for limiting includes:

means for requesting a password, and means for evaluating a password.

18. The software program of claim 16 further comprising means for enabling a dialogue among said predetermined group of persons.

19. The software program of claim 16 wherein a particular patient has an ailment; and

means for linking said patient information forum to a database having information regarding said ailment.

20. The software program of claim 17 wherein said means for limiting access includes a means for creating gradations of access dependent upon evaluation of said password.

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